



# Montgomery County RainScapes Rewards Rebate Water Harvesting: Cistern



## Requirements and Important Information

The steps to get a rebate for your RainScapes installation are listed below. The rebate check will be issued by the Department of Finance.

All decisions regarding eligibility of applications and processing of applications are final and are at the sole discretion of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Before you begin your project	
	When planning your project, ensure that it follows the design guidelines and criteria included within the application. This is important in order to be eligible for rebates.
	You <b>must</b> fill out the required <a href="#">RainScapes Rewards Water Harvesting online survey</a> before your application is considered.
	Make sure you have written approval from the RainScapes Rewards Planner before you begin installation or construction. Projects that are partially or completely finished before approval will not qualify for rebates. Allow three weeks for processing and wait to receive application approval from the Department of Environmental Protection. Contact us at <a href="mailto:RainScapes.application@montgomerycountymd.gov">RainScapes.application@montgomerycountymd.gov</a> or call 311 if you have not received a response three weeks after you submitted an application.
	You will be contacted by the Department of Environmental Protection to schedule the mandatory, preliminary site inspection if your application is approved
	Projects must be installed within six months of the preliminary inspection date.
	Compile all necessary documentation outlined in the application. Submit the application, photos, and required documentation. The applicant is responsible for obtaining any necessary permits.
	Provide a diagram or picture which shows the location of the cistern(s) and if more than one location indicate area draining to each cistern. Take a “before” photo of the proposed project area (up to six photos may be submitted. Please compress photos to reduce file size). If you cannot take pictures at this time, you may skip the upload and email the photos to <a href="mailto:RainScapes.application@montgomerycountymd.gov">RainScapes.application@montgomerycountymd.gov</a> . Please indicate your Application ID in the email.
	If you live in an HOA community, provide a letter or other documentation showing HOA approval of project.
	An electrical permit is required if an electrical pump is directly wired into the house



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	electricity. For permit go to: <a href="http://permittingservices.montgomerycountymd.gov/dpstmpl.asp?url=/permitting/bc/nfe.asp">http://permittingservices.montgomerycountymd.gov/dpstmpl.asp?url=/permitting/bc/nfe.asp</a>
	For more information on Cisterns, go to: <a href="http://permittingservices.montgomerycountmd.gov/permitting/pdf/ControlOfWaterRunoffOnSmallLots.pdf">http://permittingservices.montgomerycountmd.gov/permitting/pdf/ControlOfWaterRunoffOnSmallLots.pdf</a>
<b>Upon completion of your project</b>	
	Contact the Department of Environmental Protection at <a href="mailto:RainScapes.application@montgomerycountymd.gov">RainScapes.application@montgomerycountymd.gov</a> to schedule a mandatory final inspection. Inspections will generally be scheduled within 10 business days. At the final inspection, correct installation of the project will be verified, and the project area will be photographed.
	Please remember to submit, prior to final inspection, itemized receipts, contractor bills and/or invoices for all project costs. Invoices/billing documentation must be submitted for the entire rebate amount requested. Photocopies are acceptable. Email them to <a href="mailto:RainScapes.application@montgomerycountymd.gov">RainScapes.application@montgomerycountymd.gov</a> . Please indicate your Application ID in the email. Without this information, the rebates cannot be processed.
	If all requirements are met, the rebate will be approved, and a check will be issued by the County Department of Finance within three to six weeks.



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## Design Criteria and Guidelines for Project Eligibility

rev. 1/10, 7/10

\*\*\* These guidelines and criteria will be periodically updated to ensure currency with the latest technical information and best practices – please verify that you have the latest version! \*\*\*

### Cisterns

- Minimum Size: 250 gals; rebates provided up to 500 gallons for residential projects and up to 2000 gallons for institutional projects.
- Cisterns must include:
  - Secure lid and screen for safety and mosquito control
  - Overflow drainage outlet
  - Water spigot on barrel to attach hose or releasing water
  - Positive drainage away from foundation
  - Solid, level support base
- For a good resource, visit:  
[http://www.mapc.org/regional\\_planning/LID/cisterns\\_barrels.html](http://www.mapc.org/regional_planning/LID/cisterns_barrels.html)
- Rain Pillows are an acceptable form of cistern <http://www.rainwaterpillow.com/>
- Sufficient area to drain the cistern volume must be provided on your own lot.
- Must determine from permitting services if there is a need to obtain a permit :  
<http://permittingservices.montgomerycountymd.gov/permitting/pdf/ControlOfWaterRunoffOnSmallLots.pdf> [dps@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:dps@montgomerycountymd.gov)

### Design Details: ([http://www.mapc.org/regional\\_planning/LID/cisterns\\_barrels.html#C](http://www.mapc.org/regional_planning/LID/cisterns_barrels.html#C))

- If present, a cistern's continuous discharge outlet should be placed so that the tank does not empty completely, ensuring water availability at all times, while also providing at least some storage capacity for every storm.
- A diverter at the cistern inlet can redirect the "first flush" of runoff which is more likely to have particulates, leaves, and air-deposited contaminants washed off the roof.
- Minimize leaves and debris in the storage tank by placing a screen at the top of the downspout.

Direct overflow from cisterns to a dry well, infiltration trench, rain garden, bioretention area, or grassed swale sized to infiltrate the overflow volume.